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| **ROUND-WORMS ("Rounds")**    | Mostly Puppies & Kittens | 1. Before birth thru placenta  
2. Thru mother’s milk (while nursing)  
3. Ingesting soil / grass  
4. Eating rodents | **YES** - Looks like SPAGHETTI (Up to 7 inches long) | 1. Pot-bellied  
2. Failure to thrive  
3. Stunted growth  
4. Death (Uncommon) | **Yes** - The larva form of the worm (not the worm itself) can be ingested from soil contaminated with the eggs (especially children playing outside) | Female Roundworms can lay up to 200,000 eggs per day *** The larval form can cause blindness in people |
| **HOOK-WORMS ("Hooks")**      | Dogs & Pups (Occasionally in Cats) | 1. Before birth thru placenta  
2. Thru mother’s milk (while nursing)  
3. Ingesting soil / grass  
4. Eating rodents  
5. Penetration thru Skin (esp. through the Feet) | Rarely Seen Due to Extremely Small Size | 1. Severe blood loss  
2. Severe diarrhea (often with blood)  
3. Malnutrition  
4. Weight loss  
5. Death | **Yes** - The larva form of the worm (not the worm itself) can be ingested from soil contaminated with the eggs | Hookworms attach to the intestinal wall of pets with sharp teeth and can suck a large amount of blood and cause death |
| **WHIP-WORMS ("Whips")**      | Dogs | 1. Ingesting larva in the soil / on grass | Rarely Seen Due to Extremely Small Size | 1. Severe diarrhea (often with blood)  
2. Severe blood loss  
3. Malnutrition  
4. Weight loss | **No** - Humans cannot get the form of Whipworms that we find in Dogs | Eggs from Whipworms can remain infective in the environment for up to 5 years ! |
| **TAPE-WORMS ("Tapes")**      | Dogs & Cats Pups & Kittens | 1. *Dipylidium* - From Ingesting Fleas (Can grow up to 8” long)  
2. *Taenia* - From Eating Small Mammals (Can grow up to 3 feet long) | **YES** - Looks like Grains of RICE (Consist of Dozens of the Rice-like segments attached) | 1. Failure to thrive  
2. Intestinal blockage (puppies) | **No** - Humans cannot get Tape-worms from their pets, but can get them from swallowing a flea or from eating poorly cooked wild meat (rabbit, squirrel, etc) | We rarely find Tape-worms on a Fecal sample since they do not lay eggs in the intestinal tract — We often rely on owners to see them |
| **Intestinal Parasites (One-Cell Organisms)** | Dogs and/or Cats | How Do Pets Get These Intestinal Worms & Parasites? | Visible To Human Eye? | Affect on Pet / Clinical Signs | Contagion to Humans? | Scary Facts |
| **COCCIDIA**                  | Mostly Kittens, but often Puppies, too | 1. Ingesting soil / grass  
2. Contaminated environment | **No** | 1. Severe diarrhea  
2. Dehydration  
3. Abdominal distress  
4. Vomiting | **No** | A lesser type of Coccidia known as Cryptosporidium has been known to affect municipal water supplies |
| **GIARDIA**                   | Dogs & Cats Pups & Kittens | 1. Consuming cysts from drinking contaminated water  
2. Eating cysts from contaminated soil | **No** | 1. Diarrhea (usually with lots of mucus)  
2. Abdominal distress  
3. Weight loss | Most commonly, people get Giardia from contaminated water (drinking from a stream or pond; even municipal water supplies) | Giardia can be spread in swimming pools if someone with Giardia has diarrhea in the pool |